UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
64th meeting
held on
Thursday, 27 June 1991
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 64th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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AGENDA ITEM 127: UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 128: UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.64
1 July 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

91-55911 3768S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 127: UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 128: UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM (continued) (A/C.5/45/76 and 77; A/C.5/45/L.33)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.33, on which informal consultations had continued following its distribution. Further to those consultations, paragraph 1 had been amended to read:

> "Expresses deep concern and regret at the actions taken unilaterally by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Labour Organisation without due regard for their obligations under the common system;"

and paragraph 4 had been amended to read:

> "Requests the Commission and the Board to examine the basis for the decisions taken by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Labour Organisation and the implications for the common system, within the context of their respective relevant work programmes, and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session".

2. The Committee was fully aware of and sensitive to the concerns of staff in Geneva in respect of pensions. It was for that reason that the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, had mandated comprehensive studies by the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board. Unilateral action by ITU offered no solution; it was thus of the utmost importance for ITU and other specialized agencies to refrain from implementing any such action that might have been contemplated. Preservation of the common system was of paramount concern, and a solution must be found within that framework.

3. The draft resolution recalled the role of ICSC with regard to conditions of entitlement, and the Committee had already asked the Pension Board to study the ITU proposal as one possible long-term approach to the adjustment of pensions in local currency terms, an issue to which the Board had given priority. ITU was asked not to implement its proposal. The operative paragraphs expressed concern at the actions taken unilaterally by ITU and ILO, reaffirmed the principle of common personnel standards, emphasized the obligation of all organizations of the common system to cooperate fully with ICSC and the Pension Board, requested both those bodies to examine the implications of the decisions of the two agencies and to give the matter the highest priority, and appealed to organizations of the common system not to establish additional entitlements and benefits for their staff, since under the common system all staff should receive equal treatment.

4. Mr. BARE (International Telecommunication Union) said that the draft resolution failed to note that the ITU proposal on pensions, which had been put forward on an interim basis, would not be implemented if the United Nations General Assembly adopted measures providing comparable protection. With regard to the question of special post allowances, the draft resolution failed to note that the allowance would be paid only to the staff members performing additional duties.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that both those issues had been discussed in the informal consultations and had been taken into account in formulating the draft resolution before the Committee. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.33, as orally revised, without a vote.

6. It was so decided.

7. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote. His delegation was aware of the concerns of staff members in high-cost duty stations, but a response must come through the common system to ensure that no further discrepancies were introduced between staff members serving in the same duty station.

8. With regard to the reference in document A/C.5/45/76 to the report of the Salary Review Committee (A/3209), it did not seem that the General Assembly had, in resolution 1095 (XI), actually adopted that report. In any event it had been superseded by the statute of ICSC, which had been voluntarily accepted by organizations of the common system.

9. He noted that no other meeting of the ITU Administrative Council was due to be held prior to implementation of the pension purchasing power protection insurance plan. The right of the Secretary-General of ITU to grant special allowances for additional duties was not in question, provided such allowances were granted in accordance with the ITU Staff Regulations. Lastly, he trusted that the Pension Board, in implementing the draft resolution just adopted by the Committee, would take particular account of articles 3 (c) and 16 (a) of the Pension Fund Regulations.

10. Mr. BEL HADJ AMOR (Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission) said that he would bring the contents of the draft resolution to the Commission's attention.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda items 127 and 128.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
65th meeting
held on
Monday, 12 August 1991
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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AGENDA ITEM 131: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.65
19 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

91-56101 3814S (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 131: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (continued)

United Nations Angola Verification Mission II (UNAVEM II) (A/45/1028 and 1043)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, at its 79th plenary meeting on 28 June 1991, the General Assembly had decided to reopen agenda item 131 and had requested the Fifth Committee to reconvene in order to consider the question of UNAVEM II. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/1028) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/45/1043).

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, as a result of the recent Peace Accords for Angola, the Security Council had decided by its resolution 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991 to entrust a new mandate to UNAVEM, henceforth UNAVEM II. That mandate would last for a period of 17 months.

3. In his report (A/45/1028), the Secretary-General indicated that the total cost of UNAVEM II for the 17-month mandate from 1 June 1991 to 31 October 1992 had been estimated at $122,621,900 gross ($121,416,000 net). However, at the current time, the Secretary-General was requesting an appropriation and assessment for the seven-month period from 1 June to 31 December 1991 amounting to $59,171,400 gross ($58,689,500 net).

4. The Advisory Committee had made a detailed and careful analysis of the cost estimates. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 5 to 23 of its report (A/45/1043) and taking into account the projected surplus of UNAVEM I, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate and assess a total of $48,045,342 gross ($47,711,242 net) for the initial seven-month period of UNAVEM II from 1 June to 31 December 1991. The requirements for UNAVEM II from 1 January to 31 October 1992 would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in the light of the performance report on the initial period.

5. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that his delegation did not favour assessments covering only part of the mandate of such missions. In future, an assessment should be made of the entire period in order to allow the mission to be completed.

6. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the working paper containing a draft resolution on the item under consideration (future A/C.5/45/L.34). The representative of Ireland had agreed to coordinate consultations on the working paper. He hoped that the draft resolution could be finalized so that the Committee could take a decision at its next meeting.

7. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) said that the working paper followed the normal format of financing resolutions and was in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Under paragraph 3 the General Assembly would decide to appropriate to the Special Account an amount of $49,467,000 gross. Under paragraph 6 it would decide that there should be set off against the apportionment among Member States the unencumbered balance of $1,421,658 gross. The net effect, therefore, of those two paragraphs was the apportionment of $48,045,342 gross, as set forth in paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee. That approach was in accordance with the procedure for dealing with unencumbered balances followed in previous ongoing peace-keeping operations.

8. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) asked when and on what grounds the Bureau had decided to convene a meeting of the Committee in the middle of August. The Secretariat should clarify the specific needs of UNAVEM and explain the need to commit funds in addition to the $10 million earmarked to cover the initial requirements.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Bureau's decision had been prompted by the schedule of meetings and the availability of conference services over the next few weeks.

10. Mr. ANNAN (Controller) said that, in the Secretariat's view, the $10 million committed would not have been sufficient to meet requirements beyond the end of August 1991. It was therefore necessary to have the programme budget approved as speedily as possible so that requests could be made to Member States that might be ready to make contributions but had not been formally assessed.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.